

# PUBLIC INFORMATION CLEARANCE RECORD

1. ORIGINATOR and PHONE EXTENSION		DATE:		
Name	Beckie Himes, X7253	6/18/12		
2. PRODUCT TITLE				
Fact Sheet and Display Ad: EPA Removal Action to Begin, <del>Former</del> Standard Precision, Inc., Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas				
3. PROPOSED USE				
Distribution to: City Officials, Congressionals/Elected Officials, Newspaper for publication				
4. CONCURRENCE: Sign-off and Date				
OPA Himes X7253 <i>Beckie</i> 6/18/12	SUPR Schuette X7630 <i>via electronic email</i> MS 6/18/12	SUPR Peterson X7882 <i>mpp</i> 6/18/12	CNSL Roberts X7559 <i>DL</i> 6/20/12	OPA Hood/Thomas X7906/X7762 <i>HCT</i> 6/25/12
Signature in this block indicates the appropriate assistant administrator, regional administrator, head of staff office, or their delegate has reviewed and approved the material submitted to OPA or RGAD for signature.				

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## Region 7

Iowa  
Kansas  
Missouri  
Nebraska  
Nine Tribal Nations

## Fact Sheet

June 2012

### **EPA Removal Action to Begin Standard Precision, Inc., Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 will conduct a removal action at the former Standard Precision, Inc. site located at 4105-4129 West Pawnee Street in Wichita, Kansas. The primary contaminant of concern is radium-226.

The removal action will begin in July 2012. Radium-contaminated soils and other material will be excavated from the property and replaced with clean soil. Contaminated material will be shipped to an approved off-site facility. This cleanup action is expected to be completed in August 2012.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Radioluminescent paint has been used extensively on watch and clock faces since the early 1900s. The wide use of radium in luminescent paints continued through World War II because the soft glow of radium-produced luminescence made aircraft dials, gauges, and other instruments visible to operators at night.

Radium dial repair shops were set up in the Wichita area soon after World War II to upgrade and repair radium-bearing

aircraft instruments. During this repair process, the radium-bearing paint was stripped from the dials with solvent, and the dials were repainted. This process resulted in releases of solvents, heavy metal, and radium into buildings, soil, and ground water.

The Standard Precision, Inc. site was located at 4105-4129 West Pawnee Street in Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas. The site was the location of an aircraft instrument repair shop in the 1960s and 1970s. Instruments included radium dials and faces.

#### **THE CONTAMINATION**

During investigations conducted by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the EPA, radium-226 was detected at levels above the EPA and Nuclear Regulatory Commission screening level. Workers at the 4105-4129 West Pawnee Street, residents and passersby could be exposed to radium.

## **CLEANUP REMOVAL ACTION**

The cleanup removal action will quickly address the potential threat to human health and the environment that is posed by the radium-contaminated soil and other materials at this portion of the site. The objectives of the removal include:

- Identification and excavation of all soil and other materials with radium contamination above the specified action level;
- Proper disposal of all excavated soil and other materials; and
- Excavated soil and other materials will be replaced with clean soils.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

EPA encourages the community to review the Administrative Record file, which will be available in early August at the following locations:

Wichita Department of Environmental  
Services

1900 East 9th  
Wichita, Kansas

EPA Region 7  
Records Center  
901 N. 5th Street  
Kansas City, Kansas

If you have questions, or need additional information, please contact:

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